

# The Raccoons

**THINGS ARE GETTING FURRY AGAIN!**



# The Raccoons

## GET READY TO RETURN

to the Evergreen Forest, where it's quiet, peaceful, and serene... until BERT RACCOON wakes up! Yes, the 1980s worldwide hit is back with a brand-new series, destined to attract a fresh audience while hitting the happy nostalgia button for the existing fan base.

The whole gang is back, BERT, RALPH, MELISSA, CEDRIC, LISA, SOPHIA and of course, gazillionaire aardvark tycoon CYRIL SNEER... but there is a difference... a BIG difference... Flash forward eight years and everyone grew up! Well, everyone except Bert, that is.

Eight years on and Bert is still the definitive kidult, always on the move and forever searching for his next big adventure. But what does the ultimate adventurer do now his childhood friends are too busy to hang out with him? Well, lucky for him there are some new pups on the block and once again, Bert is ready to rock!

Crusading forest activists Ralph and Melissa Raccoon now have 8-years-old twins, who couldn't be more different than their parents or each other. Mags is feisty, fearless, and ready to try anything at the drop of hat, while her timid brother would much rather stay inside and play games on his SneerStation. What they need is a role model to show them what to do and more importantly, what not to do... After all, who else are they going to learn from? Their parents? Come on, they're far too sensible.



## ENTER BERT RACCOON

Celebrated Explorer! Hockey Star! Masked Singer! Dragon Slayer! Pizza Expert! Don't Leave Home Without Him! Whenever the kids have a problem to be solved, Bert is there to lead them on a journey of discovery. Of course, that journey is always takes them in exactly the wrong direction, as Bert's over-confidence and lack of forethought leads him into trouble.

And trouble in the Evergreen Forest has always come in the form of Cyril Sneer. Our menacing magnate (who would trade his grandmother for a used donut if he could make a fast buck) has finally retired to indulge his favourite past-time – playing in the vault with his horde of cash! His son, Cedric, has taken over as Chief Executive of SNEER ENTERPRISES. Cyril hopes it will encourage the lovable nerd to follow in his father's money-grabbing footsteps, but Cedric is desperate to find a more responsible path for the company - forcing dear old Dad to gently shove him back in the wrong direction!

So here we have Bert Raccoon – unable to get any of his childhood friends to hang out, but ready and waiting to help Mags and Finn learn the ways of the forest and hoping they have learnt enough to get him out of trouble! And THAT leads us to THE NEW RACCOONS!

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## HISTORY

### THE EVERGREEN FOREST TODAY:

Is it still quiet? Peaceful? Serene? Are all the trees still standing? Is a furry dreamer still living in the basement of his friends' house? Has a son finally won approval from his overly ambitious, money hungry (but still loving and *pink*), father? Is a raccoon still friends with an aardvark?

In 1985, the world was introduced to the animated television series *The Raccoons*. Bert, Ralph, Melissa, Cedric and of course, Cyril, would quickly turn into global household names overnight. If you missed this iconic series when it first originally aired, *The Raccoons* followed the day-to-day lives of three raccoons, their friend Cedric the aardvark and Cyril Sneer, who's constant chase for fortune caused many conflicts inside the forest. The series would on occasion present irreverent commentary on social issues with a satirical, family-friendly slant -- this became a popular touchstone for a whole generation.

30 years later, parents are yearning to introduce their young families to shows that left a mark on them, and their kids will love the fast-paced, whip-smart comedy of Bert and his friends.

With The 65 half-hour legacy shows restored to 4K and sold around the world, and a fast-growing portfolio of *The Raccoons* licensed products, there is a clearly a momentum behind this world-favourite brand. This is the perfect time to launch *The New Raccoons* - a reboot that appeals to a whole new generation of fans. The Raccoons and their friends are ready and waiting to kickstart a whole new series of adventures! All aboard for *The New Raccoons*!

**Roku** **itvX** **CRAVE**



**CORUS.** **Bell Media**

Eight years after *The Raccoons*' legendary adventures, youngsters Finn and Mags are excited to explore the Evergreen Forest, but they need a guide - a role model to show them that every problem has a solution. And there's only one guy for the job, because no-one causes problems quite like Bert Raccoon!

### EARTH DAY EPISODE: "BERT'S TACO TRASH FIASCO"

Bert's love of food and winning leads Mags and Finn to create an all-comers TACO EATING CONTEST! Unfortunately, none of them bank on the amount of garbage that results. OF COURSE, Bert needs his taco-eating hat, full-sleeve taco bib, 25 packages of individual condiments and 1 taco shaped tablecloth (all disposable) and that's just him, never mind all the other contestants! By end of the day, they have accumulated a mountain of garbage, but it's all good - the Garbage Guys will pick it up in a few days and the smell's not THAT bad! Then he notices Ralph taking out his trash - how is the bag so tiny? Finn lets him on the secret: his parents perfected a recycling plan, and now they hardly throw anything out.

Never one to step away from a challenge, Bert recruits the kids to help him upcycle the trash into loads of useless items for his friends and neighbours, but he doesn't realize he needs to clean it first - no one wants to wear a hat made from a sticky taco wrapper. Then Mags has an idea - just hide it, that's what she does at home! They enlist the help of The Pigs, who take their instructions a little too literally and soon the woods, nests, burrows and even Cyril's bathtub is overflowing with the Taco Eating Contest trash! Plus, Mags and Finn have to 'come clean' to their parents about why there is a mountain of salsa-smelling rubbish they have secreted about their house.

Meanwhile, things are not going well in the Evergreen Forest as the inhabitants are clearly not happy finding chili sauce containers and paper plates where they are least expected. Desperate, Bert turns to his friend Cedric for a new invention: The Garbage Dehydrator. It literally turns trash into dust and sucks it up into a handy container. It seems like a success until The Pigs spill one tiny drop of water into the container and rehydrate an entire forest worth of taco leftovers garbage - in Cyril Sneer's main TV Room! Bert is going to have to do a lot of clean-up if he's ever going to be welcomed in the Evergreen Forest again, but the kids have the solution and go back to Cedric for another invention. "It's called a broom."



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## THE NIGHT OF THE SHOOTING STARS: "EVER-VEGAS"

Bert decides it's time the kids learnt a valuable lesson. For the last 8 years, he has hosted the Holiday Snow Picnic - decorating an evergreen tree that marks the spot where the community meets for a party under an annual display of shooting stars. Now it's their turn. Can they decorate the tree as well as him? For once, the twins manage to work together - Finn planning and creating a complicated set of decorations, while Mags uses her fearless ingenuity to catapult herself from branch to branch, decorating the tree in record time.

Suddenly worried he is going to be overshadowed by his students, Bert goes crazy and starts spruce up the surrounding...spruces! He sources more and more decorations from Cedric's factory, while that Cyril starts goading both sides in the hope of selling more decorations. Not to mention, The Pigs have got in on the action, designing their own line of dancing and singing twinkle pig-aardvark lights - and they're a hit! Soon town wide is on the action and the factory is pumping out products at record speed.

Finally finished, Bert and the kids collapse and look at their handiwork, but all they see is...Vegas in The Forest and what's worse, the forest is now so full of decorations and light pollution, there is no way they will see the shooting stars. Cedric has a plan and heads into the centre of the forest. If he can undo the decorations on the central tree, they can hit rewind on the machinery and reel them all back into the factory. But he becomes lost. Can Bert and his friends play the ultimate game of hide 'n' seek to find Cedric and the tree before the shooting stars arrive?

## THE NEXT STEPS / BASIC STORY IDEAS



# BERT RACCOON

**"I really wish this jetpack went faster... It only blew off half my sweater."**

Bert puts the "action" in adventure, the "Grrr" in "danger", and the "Wheee" in "Weee shouldn't be up here!"

He's 100% pure kid. That crazy uncle who never grew up. The guy who has more in common with kids than with their parents and always manages to lead them (or get led) astray. For Bert, the Evergreen Forest is the ultimate playground, and he makes the most out of all that nature. Combining speed, curiosity and an irrational amount of confidence, Bert's adventures are always exciting, unpredictable - and sometimes spontaneously combustive. He only really stops when he gets a whiff of food. Especially peanut butter - and he has many recipes involving that. Don't ask. You don't want to know... and definitely don't try his lasagne!

Bert's secret weapon is self-belief. He believes he can win no matter what and is never put off by failure. In his own head, he's a Hockey Star, Rock and Roll Legend and Master Detective - sometimes all at once! Relying on his Mags and Finn to bring his ideas to life, Bert always thinks he is teaching a valuable life lesson - even when it goes spectacularly wrong; and you know what? He is! They may get wet, sticky, or accidentally gift wrapped along the way, but Bert's charm encourages them into doing it all again the next day.



# MAGS AND FINN

**"Hmm, this bridge looks perilous. Excellent!"**

Mags is short for Margaret, but no one dares call her that... except her mum and that's only when she is in BIG trouble.

Energetic and headstrong, Mags is a force of nature. The moment she started lofting three-pointers into the trash basket from her crib with her diaper - (Beat) full - Melissa and Ralph knew they had a challenge on their hands! Mags finally outgrew the diaper shots, but not her enterprising ways to have fun. She is fearless, inventive and doesn't like to plan ahead - relying more on her wits and her ability to improvise her way out of trouble. Mags loves to be outside and is fascinated by the natural world. Unlike Finn, she learns through doing and delights in getting her hands dirty... and her feet... and knees and elbows... let's face it, Mags rates her days on how muddy she gets and if she can trick her brother into getting muddy too, then so much the better!

Inquisitive and intrigued by the world around her, she is very much a hands-on learner. If there is a button that says, 'do not push', then she will be the first to push it and there is nothing more enticing for her than a sign that says 'do not enter'... Surely just a little peek will be okay, right? She doesn't break rules, but she does bend them. In that sense, Mags is much closer to Bert in her outlook. A fearless adventurer who will always leap before she looks.



**"I'm not sure catapulting yourself over the gorge like this is a good idea Bert. But if you insist, you may want to get some sponsorship first. We could really clean up!"**

The ultimate digital bookworm, Finn prides himself on knowing everything there is to know about the world, but there's just one problem for this young academic... it's all academic!

Finn does not like to be pushed outside his comfort zone, or his bedroom for that matter! But give him a tablet and a good pair of waterproofs, and this walking-Wikipedia can be the most useful person on any expedition - so long as he isn't asked to do anything he suggests from his research. Luckily Bert's enthusiasm is incredibly infectious, and Finn often finds himself getting caught up in his uncle's latest adventure against his better judgement.

While Finn shares his Bert and Mag's love of the forest (from hypothetical viewpoint), he is also a budding entrepreneur and can become sidetracked when the gang's adventures get in the way of one of his side-hustles. He loves visiting Sneer Enterprises, where he can pitch his latest business opportunity to Cedric - though more often than not, it's Cyril Sneer who takes the most interest and tries to recruit our young Apprentice-wannabe whenever he can.

While Mags and Finn may disagree on many things, they share one very important passion: music! Together with their Uncle Bert, they have formed the ultimate raccoon pop band (R-Pop) called TRASH PANDA. Together they bring a (very noisy) soundtrack to the forest and firmly believe they are on the cusp of stardom... If only Bert can get them that one big break-through show!

# RALPH AND MELISSA

**"Another adventure? Maybe tomorrow Bert - I mean this washing won't fold itself..."**

**Wait a minute. Do you think Cedric could invent a folding machine for me?!"**

Mags and Finn's parents have known Bert since they were kids. They are practically family and have adopted Bert as an unofficial uncle to their twins. Melissa is a strong-willed environmentalist, who does everything she can to safeguard her forest home - especially as she has now taken on the role of Forest Ranger. She can always be found saving tiny sapling from Cyril Sneer's logging machines or organising a forest clean up party. She may seem like a stick in the mud, but Melissa is an all-action hero when she needs to be and will swing into Ranger-action when needed.

Hapless Ralph, meanwhile, tries to keep the family's many plates spinning. He is desperate to be a good role model for the kids, but he is always undercut by the legendary antics of his friend Bert. Like Finn, he often comes up with time-saving schemes, but unlike his son, they are always doomed to failure! Ralph loves to remind his friends about his glory days in the forest but can't quite bring himself to get off the sofa and try to keep up with Bert and the kids.



# CEDRIC SNEER

**"I'm not sure that's a good idea, Bert. My invention wasn't tested for use during this sudden monsoon...or a snowstorm... wait, have you been messing with my weather machine?!"**

Cedric is a nerd. There. We said it. Insecure about most things, Cedric's confidence only jumps into high-gear when it comes to inventing - especially if it's for best friend Bert. Need a flying balloon chair? Cedric is on it. Need to drop into a dormant volcano? Cedric will rig up the...ugh...rigging. Need a hamster and ONLY a hamster to pull you in a dog-sledding race? No questions asked - Cedric will make that sled go like there's no tomorrow! Great. Now...if only ANY of those inventions ever worked. But that's OK. Failure does not deter Cedric. The possibility of getting lost, hurt, embarrassed or seasick does. But creating in the safety of his home and pajama pants - he's got that.

Now finally in charge of Sneer Enterprises, Cedric attempts to keep his dad in check and find a more responsible path for the company. Impassioned by the environment and having a naturally big heart, Cedric knows his dad has a good heart in there somewhere. He just needs to strip away the onion-y layers of greed first.



# CYRIL SNEER

**“I’m a big fan of the environment Cedric, I just don’t see why drilling for oil in the forest is such a problem. These coal-powered drills are perfectly safe, and that oil-spill will make a great slip and slide for the kids play park!”**

Everyone's favourite bad guy, CYRIL is an old fashioned, aardvark tycoon. After making his fortune by hacking down trees with reckless abandon (ah...the good old days), Cyril has retired his gaudy mansion high atop concrete hill, like a pimple in the woods.

He isn't really evil, just power hungry, narcissistic, paranoid, GREEDY and never, ever fulfilled. Cyril is always looking for that next big win. Too bad he typically places the responsibility of plan execution into the hoofs of his hapless henchmen, The Pigs. They start trouble, get into trouble and are masters of misunderstanding, making that trouble even worst. But even though Cyril does not hold back reminding The Pigs about their incompetence, he oddly still listens to them. And because The Pigs are endlessly dedicated to their aardvark overlord, the cyclical chaos continues.

Cyril despairs of his son's drive to make the company more environmentally friendly and undermines him at every opportunity. Though publicly retired, Cyril is secretly a very active agent of chaos and delights in causing trouble - especially for those "Annoying Fluffballs". He has never understood Cedric's friendship with the Raccoons, but he does have a soft spot for Finn. Cyril sees the young entrepreneur as a kindred spirit and will sometimes bring him into his money-making schemes. He is inevitably disappointed when Finn chooses the good of the forest over Cyril's masterplan but is also secretly impressed when the young raccoon somehow manages to make a profit in the process. If only his son could be more like Finn!



# THE PIGS

**"Sorry Boss, "We didn't know putting your robot in a warm bath was a bad idea... He said he had a cold. Or he said he had the code. Either way, he won't stop break-dancing now."**

As always, Cyril is aided by his Bumblers Extraordinaire! Still sycophantically loyal to their old boss, they do everything they can to help Cyril's schemes and try to disrupt Cedric's more environmentally friendly plans - but leaving The Pigs responsible for even making a cup of bedtime cocoa could lead to a catastrophic kitchen meltdown!



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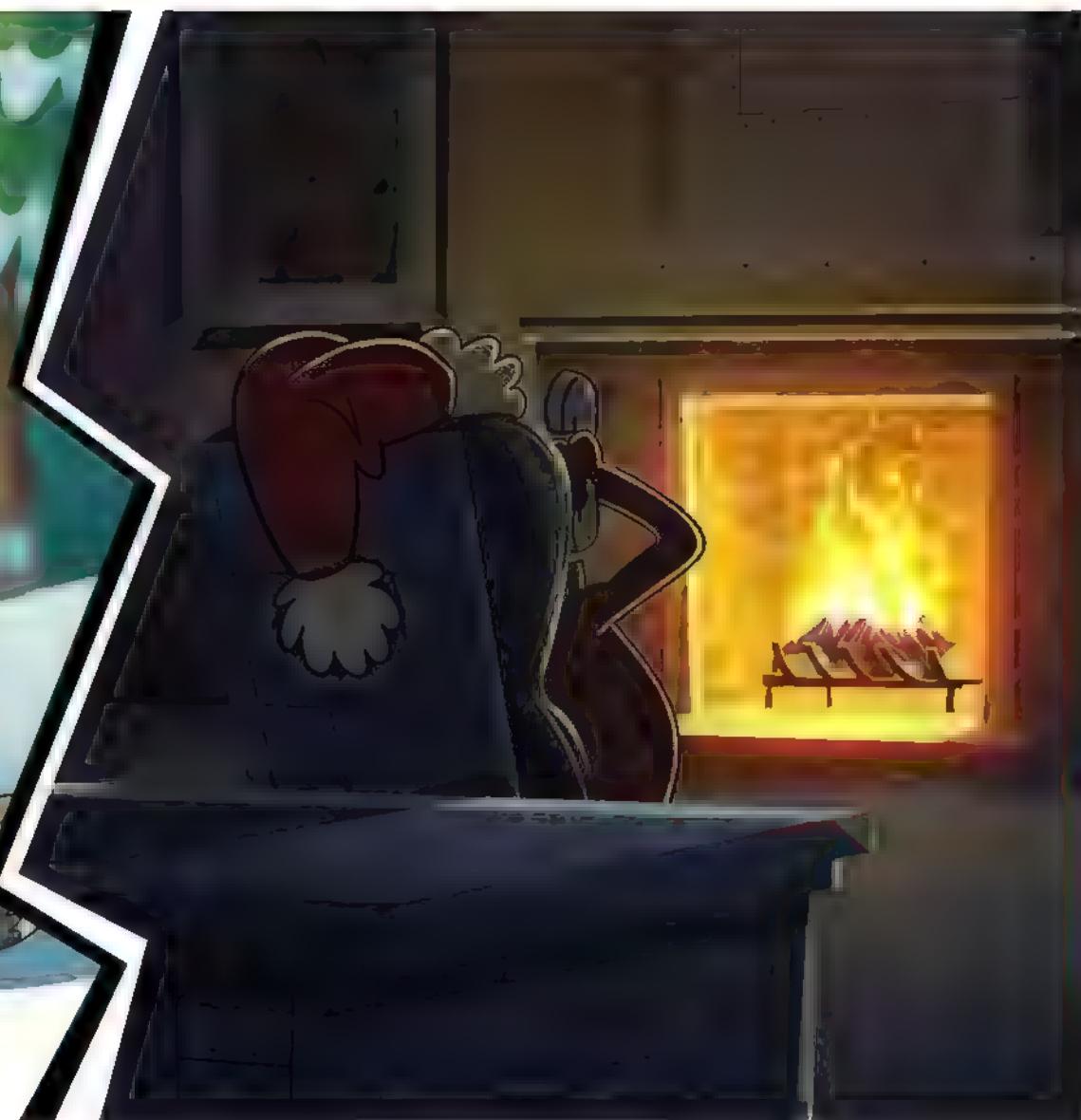
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## KEVIN GILLIS - EXECUTIVE PRODUCER

Is one of Canada's leading independent producers. His producing and directing credits include a wide variety of successful programs: The Raccoons; RoboCop: The Series; Atomic Betty; Jimmy Two Shoes; FX: The Series; Camp Lakebottom; Captain Flamingo; The Nutcracker Prince; Universal Soldier; Miss BG; etc. He has worked with most of the world's top studios and broadcasters: Disney; Cartoon Network; CBC; BBC; M6; ITV; Warner Bros; Teletoon; Canal-Plus; Nickelodeon; France Televisions; YTV; Super RTL; and Showtime. His shows have been nominated for or won several awards including Geminis, BAFTA, ACT, Banff Rocky & Jury Awards. Kevin is currently developing a new series of Raccoons specials; a multi-media dance series for kids as well as a live-action superhero cop show with Stan Lee and Larry Jacobson (The Chosen).

## ALEX GALATIS - EXECUTIVE STORY EDITOR

Alex Galatis is a writer and executive story editor who has written over a 200 hours of episodic TV, animation, live action drama and TV movies that have aired on CBC, Teletoon, Disney XD, Nickelodeon, Apple TV Plus and CBBC in England. He has worked as the executive story editor and writer on the primetime soap opera Paradise Falls, a wheel of mystery movies entitled The Shadow Island Mysteries, the stand-alone mystery thriller Shadow Lake, plus the animation series Atomic Betty, Jimmy Two Shoes, Rocket Monkeys, Dr. Dimensionpants, the TV version of Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs and The Snoopy Show for Apple TV Plus. Currently, Alex is the executive story editor on the first new Peanuts specials in ten years for Apple TV Plus and was nominated for a Humanitas Prize for his script for the Peanuts special, To Mom (and Dad) with Love.

## JESSICA BORUTSKI - ART DIRECTOR/ DESIGNER

Working in the industry since 2003, Jessica had her start in animation at Spumco working on The New Ren and Stimpy. From there she ventured to the East Coast and worked with Collideascope and Copernicus on various projects from music videos to television series. Soon after she created her own short film entitled "I Like Pandas" this earned Jessica the "Frederator Flash Film of the Year Award". Fuel Industries, an adver-gaming agency hired Jess in 2005. She art directed many projects there and worked with clients such as Kraft Foods, Johnson&Johnson and McDonald's creating beautiful immersive online gaming. The popularity of her short film earned her notice from Warner Bros. She was approached by them to re-design the Looney Tunes, and from there went on to direct the "Merrie Melodies" part of the show. She also re-imagined Bugs and the gang again for the Wabbit series, which evolved into "The New Looney Tunes Show". Jessica went on to work on many of the WB legacy properties. One DC Nation Short featuring Shazam entitled "WISDOM" that she produced was nominated for an Emmy. She now produces the series Bunnicula for Cartoon Network International.

## ADAM CARTER - WRITER

Adam is a Screenwriter and Creative Producer, with 20 years' experience of crafting award-winning entertainment for children and families. He started off as a Henson-trained puppeteer before moving into scripting and animation, where he says the job is just as rewarding but easier on the knees! Since hanging up the puppets, Adam has led teams in animation, live action, and video games; creating engaging characters and telling stories that reach kids wherever they are. Above all, Adam loves to collaborate with like-minded creatives and inspire children to laugh, think, play, and discover new ideas. Credits include 'Booba', 'Oddbods', 'Go Jetters', 'JoJo & Gran Gran', 'As You Like It at Shakespeare's Globe', 'Legends of MeoShin'Ké', and many animation development projects for global studios. He is also developing his own shows - watch this space!

## BIG JUMP ENTERTAINMENT

BIG JUMP founded in 2008, helmed by brothers Cory and Rick Morrison, and partner AJ Cote is an independent, full service animation production facility located in Ottawa, Canada, specializing in the seamless combination of traditional and digital techniques spanning all areas of production from concept to delivery. Big Jump's roster of clients have been DHX Media (now Wildbrain), Comedy Central, CMT, Muse Entertainment, Nickelodeon, Gaumont Animation, Gaumont International TV, Wild West TV, UniNBC, Stoopid Buddy Stoodios, Amazon, Warner Bros, Build A Bear Ent., HBO, WWE, ABC, Sony TV and Netflix to name a few. BIG JUMP has been pivotal in the delivery of hit shows such as Ugly Americans, Brickleberry, The Magic Hockey Skates, Trailer Park Boys-Animated, F is For Family and its latest feature release direct to theatres entitled Glisten and The Merry Mission. BIG JUMP has also executive produced its own IP, in Shutterbugs and Big Words, Small Stories delivering to TVO Kids, TFO, SRC, Knowledge Kids and ABC and distributed worldwide. Creatively driven with an ultra efficient pipeline built on ToonBoom's Harmony and Adobe's Production suite of software affords BIG JUMP a selective approach in regards to the projects it undertakes. Confidence and reliability combined with an engaging experience form the foundation of BIG JUMP while delivering more than expected on time and on budget.

# The Raccoons

THE NEW RACCOONS! OUR FAVOURITE CHARACTERS, BOTH OLD AND NEW, COME TOGETHER TO MAKE SURE THAT THINGS ARE GETTING FURRY AGAIN! AND THAT MEANS FUN!

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PASSWORD: RACCOONS2024!

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productions

